

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 18 are amended; and Claims 5 and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found at least at Fig. 3 and p. 8, l. 31 – p. 9, l. 2 of the specification. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ludwig et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0225832, herein Ludwig) in view of Yogeshwar et al. (U.S. Pat. 7,035,468, herein Yogeshwar) and Minneman et al. (U.S. Pat. 7,174,083, herein Minneman).

In response to the above noted rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 8 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1, for example, is amended to incorporate a portion of canceled Claim 5, and recites a system for archiving a collaboration over a network, comprising:

... a speech recognition engine interfaced with the archive and configured to ***identify voices associated with an audio media stream and provide a temporal map of speaker identity over the duration of the collaboration based on the identified voices.***

Independent Claim 8, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 8.

In rejecting Claims 4-5, which is/are directed to speech recognition, the Office Action relies on paragraphs [0246] and [0287] of Ludwig. Paragraph [0246] of Ludwig describes that his system includes a Multimedia Document Management (MMDM) system 526, which includes searching capabilities so that a user can access desired selected portions of a

stored multimedia document. This includes context-based and content-based searches (employing operations such as speech and image recognition, information filters, etc.), time-based searches, and event-based searches (window events, call management events, speech/audio events, etc.). Further, paragraph [0287] of Ludwig describes that a user can search an ASCII text log (which was automatically extracted in the background after the meeting had been recorded, using the latest voice recognition techniques), or apply an information filter to perform a content-oriented search of a meeting transcript.

Ludwig, therefore, does appear to describe that voice recognition techniques may be used to transcribe an audio meeting file, but fails to disclose using voice recognition to *identify voices* associated with an audio media stream, much less *providing a temporal map of speaker identity over the duration of the collaboration based on the identified voices*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. More particularly, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest using voice recognition to *identify voices associated with audio media*, whatsoever.

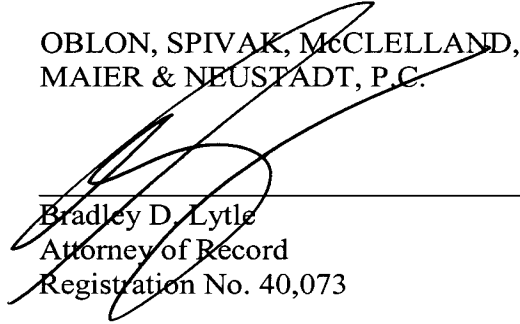
Further, neither Yogeshwar nor Minneman remedy the above noted deficiencies of Ludwig. Therefore, Ludwig, Yogeshwar and Minneman, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest a system for archiving a collaboration over a network that includes “a speech recognition engine interfaced with the archive and configured to *identify voices* associated with an audio media stream and *provide a temporal map of speaker identity over the duration of the collaboration based on the identified voices*” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claim 8 (and the claims that depend therefrom) also patentably define over Ludwig, Yogeshwar and Minneman.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-22 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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